

110 EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

20 May 1968

25X1

High-Level Soviet Delegation May Visit Yugoslavia

A high-level Soviet party delegation may visit Yugoslavia soon, [redacted] The [redacted] the Yugoslavs had been seeking such a visit for some time. [redacted] the visit may occur this month, a Yugoslav diplomat who confirmed that the delegation will come, stated that no date had been set. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Bulgarian Security Alert

Special security measures were observed in Sofia on the evening of 16 May during and immediately after a radio-TV address designed to calm popular concern over Bulgaria's serious drought.

A Western diplomat observed several militia armed with sub-machine guns in downtown Sofia. The same source noted a roadblock outside the city where approximately thirty civilians with weapons appeared to be waiting for militia transport. Several other sources, including a US embassy officer, observed militiamen armed with sub-machine guns, which are not normally carried by militia, in other parts of the city.

The timing of these measures suggest that the Bulgarian leadership is concerned about the population's reaction to possible domestic shortages caused by the drought. The radio-TV speech, which was delivered by First Deputy Premier Zhivko Zhivkov, had a reassuring tone and estimated twenty to thirty percent crop damage, well below Sofia rumor mill estimates.

The leadership's credibility still suffers from their assurances in December, that the price increases implemented in January would not take place. Rumors of food rationing have not quieted, and Bulgaria's leadership, already anxious about developments in Czechoslovakia, will probably continue to be hypersensitive to events on the homefront. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

GROUP I  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWN-  
GRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

25X1

-2-

Drought Broken in Yugoslavia

Excellent rainfall from 12 to 16 May has relieved the drought in Yugoslavia and the prices of fresh produce have already begun to fall in some city markets. While most crops now are expected to partially recover, the devastating effect of the long dry spell will be evident. Officials estimate the wheat crop will be down 24% from the original 5 million tons forecast, sugar beets are expected to be down 26%, and corn will not reach the 7.2 million tons harvested in 1967. More rain was forecast last weekend for all parts of the country, but the importance of summer weather conditions on recently planted short-term crops now becomes critical for the nation's agriculture as well as the country's economy as a whole.

25X1

25X1

Iranian Foreign Minister Zahedi Visits Budapest

Iranian Foreign Minister, Arseshir Zahedi arrived in Hungary on 18 May for a five day visit. During the arrival ceremonies at Ferihegy airport, Hungarian Foreign Minister, Janos Peter indicated that the main purpose of Zahedi's visit is to discuss international problems of mutual interest, presumably Israel.

25X1

International Communist Conference Reportedly Slated for Albania

Albania will host a conference of Marxist-Leninist Communist parties while the World Conference of Communist parties is meeting in Moscow, according to an Indian Press Agency report. The Chinese will act as co-hosts. The Communist parties of Burma, Bolivia, Cuba, Japan and Korea, pro-Chinese groups from Ceylon and Pakistan, and Communist parties from three unspecified African countries have been invited. However, the Japanese and Koreans

25X1

reportedly have already refused to attend.

The possibility of such a conference taking place cannot be ruled out, but it is doubtful that the Indian press would have the inside track on the meeting. Both Peking and Tirana have toyed with this idea before but have shied away in the end because of the embarrassingly low attendance prospects. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav's Consider Broadening Area of Private Business

The Yugoslav Federal Executive Council (FEC) reportedly is considering a bill that would open commercial trade to private entrepreneurs for the first time since the Communist take over in Yugoslavia. Private shops would be permitted to open in areas without commercial outlets and where the socialized trade network finds it unprofitable to operate.

In a debate earlier this year the Federal Assembly endorsed the opening of private shops in these areas, but left the decisions governing the shops' operation to republican authorities. The fact that the proposal is now in the FEC probably indicates that action at the top executive level to implement this measure is necessary from a procedural or legal standpoint. [REDACTED]

25X1

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT  
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION